

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00769 210904Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CU-04 /127 W
-----069096 211104Z /17

R 210850Z MAR 78

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0191

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG CH

SUBJ:PRC OIL EXPLORATION IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

1. A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE IN PEKING HAS INFORMED USLO THAT THE SEMI-SUBMERSIBLE OIL DRILLING RIG BORGNY DOLPHIN, WHICH THE CHINESE PURCHASED LAST SUMMER FROM THE NORWEGIAN FIRM FRED OLSEN HAS RECENTLY BEEN DELIVERED TO A POINT SOUTH OF HAINAN ISLAND. A MULTINATIONAL TEAM OF FOREIGN TECHNICIANS WILL SOON ARRIVE TO TRAIN THE CHINESE ON THE OPERATION OF THE RIG. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, ONE OF THE FOREIGN TECHNICIANS HAS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT CHINESE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE THIS RIG.

2. THE BORGNY DOLPHIN, BUILT BY THE AKER GROUP OF NORWAY IN 1975, PREVIOUSLY OPERATED IN THE NORTH SEA. THIS RIG WILL PERMIT THE CHINESE TO DRILL IN DEEPER WATER (UP TO 600 FT) THAN THE JACK-UP RIG NAN HAI I WHICH CHINESE HAVE OPERATED IN THE AREA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE BORGNY DOLPHIN CONTAINS SOME \$5-6 MILLION OF US EQUIPMENT, A DETAILED LIST OF WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1977 "CHINA BUSINESS REVIEW."
WOODCOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, EXPLORATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING00769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0123
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780342/aaaabjox.tel
Line Count: 55
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c43361c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3255369
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC OIL EXPLORATION IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA
TAGS: ENRG, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c43361c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014